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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARKANSAS WORK-RELATED FATALITIES IN 2014

Little Rock - Preliminary findings from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) conducted by the Arkansas Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reveal Arkansas had 67 work-related fatalities in 2014. Final results for 2014 will be released in the spring of 2016.

2014 CENSUS PROFILE

Major findings of the Arkansas Department of Labor census include:

There were 67 fatal occupational injuries which occurred in Arkansas during 2014.

- Occupational fatalities in 2014 increased by 4 from the final revised total of 63 recorded during 2013. One additional fatality for 2013 was added after the preliminary total of 62 was released on September 29, 2014.
- There were 48 deaths involving private sector wage and salary workers, up from 46 in 2013. Fatal occupational injuries among government workers decreased from 9 in 2013 to 6 in 2014. Self-employed worker fatalities increased from 8 in 2013 to 13 in 2014.
- Men accounted for 60 (90%) of the fatal work injuries, while women accounted for 7 (10%).
- White non-Hispanic workers accounted for 50 (75%) of the fatalities. Black or African American non-Hispanic workers accounted for 8 (12%) of the fatalities. Hispanic or Latino workers accounted for 9 (13%).

Thirty-three (33), or 49%, of the 67 work-related fatal injuries in 2014 were the result of transportation incidents.

- Transportation incidents increased to 33 in 2014 from 29 in 2013.
- Transportation incidents led all fatality events for the 21st year in a row in Arkansas.
- This total includes events such as 15 roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles; 4 nonroadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles; 7

pedestrian vehicular incidents; 4 rail vehicle incidents and 1 aircraft incident.

- Five (5) of the 6 government worker fatalities were the result of transportation incidents.

Other Fatality Events

- A total of 8 workers were fatally injured due to contact with objects or equipment in 2014, down from 10 in 2013. This total includes 4 workers struck by a falling object or equipment; and 4 workers caught in or compressed by equipment or machinery.
- There were 4 deaths due to exposure to harmful substances or environments in 2014, down from 8 in 2013. This includes 3 deaths from inhalation of harmful substance. Electrocutions were down from 5 in 2013 to 1 in 2014.
- A total of 7 workers died as a result of violence and other injuries caused by persons or animals, up from 2 in 2013. This includes 5 homicides, up from 2 in 2013.
- Falls resulted in 12 worker fatalities in 2014, up from 11 in 2013. This includes 3 falls on the same level; and 9 falls to a lower level.
- Fires or explosions took the lives of 3 workers in 2014, the same number as in 2013.

Nationally, the preliminary count of 4,679 fatal work injuries in 2014 was up from a revised count of 4,585 fatal work injuries in 2013. Arkansas was one of 24 states reporting higher numbers of fatal work injuries in 2014.

Background of the program

In an effort to compile data that is as complete as possible, the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) uses diverse sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. Source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation reports, and Federal and State agency administrative records are cross-referenced to gather key information about each workplace fatality, such as the particular occupation in which the fatality occurred, worker demographics, equipment or machinery involved, and circumstances of the event. The CFOI program compiles the most complete, verifiable count of fatal occupational injuries in the United States. For additional information, please go to www.bls.gov/iif or www.labor.ar.gov.

Another BLS program, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII), presents frequency counts and incidence rates by industry, detailed case circumstances, and worker characteristics for nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses for cases that result in days away from work. Incidence rates for 2014 by industry will be published in October 2015, and information on 2014 case circumstances and worker characteristics will be available in November 2015.